(c) and (d) Post Offices are opened subject to fulfillment of distance, population and income norms. In consonance with the policy directives of the 10th Plan regarding rationalization of the postal network, no plan targets have been allotted for opening of new post offices since 2004-05. However, if justification for opening a Post Office is found, it can only be opened by relocation of an existing post office which is no longer justified, on the departmental norms in its present location. Thus, there is no time frame for opening of post offices.

Deposition and withdrawal of money through post offices

† 902. SHRIMATIMAYASINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Postman would under taken the job of getting the money deposited and its withdrawal in accounts of the account holders in post offices;

(b) by when this scheme would take off; and

(c) whether Department of Posts are also formulating any scheme for the welfare of the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, no such scheme has been introduced by the Department of posts on all India basis. However, four postal circles *i.e.* Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kamataka and Madhya Pradesh on their own initiative have provided facility of delivery of cash at the doorstep of account holder through postman in a limited manner on an experimental basis. At present there is no proposal to extend the facility on all India basis.

(c) At present no such new scheme is under consideration of the Department.

Reduction of rates by BSNL

T903. SHRIMATI MAYASINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that BSNL has reduced the rates of their various telephone calls *w.e.f.* November, 2006;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi